

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for processing digital messages, comprising:

input means arranged to receive input specifying an interrogation criterion;

interrogation means arranged to interrogate a database of digital messages sent to a user, to produce a subset of messages in accordance with the interrogation criterion; and

compilation means arranged to produce a compilation of the subset of messages having the form of a human-readable document.

2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compilation has the visual appearance of a scrapbook.

3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein content of the messages is of a type selected from a group comprising: e-mail messages; data files attached to e-mail messages; images; multimedia clips.

4. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the database is a messaging server.

5. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the input means are operable to receive the interrogation criterion from the user's e-mail client application.

6. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the interrogation means are configured to employ artificial intelligence algorithms when producing a subset of messages.

7. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the compilation means is operable to remove duplicated content from messages for inclusion in the subset.
8. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the compilation means is operable to
5 identify e-mail messages in the database having content relating to common subject matter for inclusion in the subset.
9. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the compilation means are further operable to remove header information from e-mail messages when producing the
10 compilation.
10. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 3, further operable to save the compilation in a data file.
- 15 11. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, further operable to store the compilation within the user's e-mail client application.
12. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 10, further operable to store the compilation in the
20 database.
13. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the messages are of a type selected from a group comprising: text messages sent to or from mobile stations; picture messages sent to or from mobile stations; multimedia clips sent to or from mobile stations; data files sent to or from mobile stations.
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14. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the database is a mobile telecommunications messaging server.
- 5 15. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, where the input means are operable to receive the interrogation criterion from a mobile station.
16. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the input means are operable to receive the interrogation criterion via the internet.
- 10 17. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the interrogation means are configured to employ artificial intelligence algorithms when producing a subset of digital communications, the artificial intelligence algorithms being operable to identify messages having content relating to common subject matter for inclusion in the subset.
- 15 18. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, incorporated in a server in communication with the mobile telecommunications messaging server.
19. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further operable to transmit the compilation to the user's mobile station.
- 20 20. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further operable to store the compilation on a webserver.

21. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 20, further operable to send the user access details to enable the user to access the compilation stored on the webserver.

22. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the digital messages are instant
5 messages, and wherein the apparatus further comprises a database on which the instant messages are stored when sent and/or received.

23. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the database is stored in the user's personal computer.

10 24. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the database is stored on a server in communication with the user's personal computer.

25. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the input means are operable to receive
15 the interrogation criterion from the user's instant messaging client application.

26. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the interrogation means are configured to employ artificial intelligence algorithms when producing a subset of digital
communications, the artificial intelligence algorithms being operable to identify
20 messages having content relating to common subject matter for inclusion in the subset.

27. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compilation means are operable to arrange a sequence of the digital messages in the compilation according to a

sequencing criterion specified by the user selected from a group comprising:
chronological order; quantity of content; identity of sender; subject matter.

28. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compilation means are operable to
5 adjust a level of detail of the digital communications presented in the compilation
according to a criterion specified by the user.

29. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, further operable to print the compilation.

10 30. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the compilation means is further operable
to automatically update the compilation when the user sends or receives further
digital communications.

15 31. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the input means are further operable to
receive input specifying a specific digital communication to be added to or removed
from the compilation, and wherein the compilation means are operable to add or
remove said specific digital communication to or from the compilation.

20 32. A computer program product executable to perform a method for producing a
compilation of messages sent to a user, the method comprising:
receiving input specifying an interrogation criterion;
interrogating a database of messages sent to the user, to produce a subset of
messages in accordance with the interrogation criterion; and
generating a compilation of messages satisfying the interrogation criterion
25 and having the form of a human-readable document.

33. A computer program as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising an integrated e-mail client.
- 5 34. A computer program as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising an integrated instant messaging client.
35. A computer program stored on a data carrier, the computer program being executable to perform a method for producing a compilation of a plurality of
10 messages sent to a user, the method comprising:
receiving input specifying an interrogation criterion;
interrogating a database of messages sent to the a user, to produce a subset of messages in accordance with the interrogation criterion; and
generating a compilation of messages satisfying the interrogation criterion
15 and having the form of a human-readable document.
36. A server configured to execute a method for producing a compilation of a plurality of messages sent to a user, the method comprising:
receiving input specifying an interrogation criterion;
20 interrogating a database of messages sent to a user, to produce a subset of messages in accordance with the interrogation criterion; and
generating a compilation of messages satisfying the interrogation criterion and having the form of a human-readable document.
- 25 37. A method for producing a scrapbook compilation of comprising the steps of:

specifying a criterion for querying a database of messages;
querying the database on the basis of the criterion to produce a result-set of
messages; and
generating from the result-set a compilation of messages having the form of a
scrapbook document.

38. A method according to claim 37 wherein the step of generating a compilation
includes the step of removing duplicated content.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the step of generating a compilation
includes the steps of opening attachments and incorporating opened attachments in
the scrapbook document.

40. A method according to claim 39 wherein the result set includes messages sent by a
plurality of people.

41. A method according to claim 40 wherein the result set includes messages sent by the
user.

42. A method according to claim 37 wherein querying the database is performed using
an artificial intelligence algorithm.